

## **Update on Zika Medicaid Benefit**

On June 1, 2016, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released an informational bulletin on Medicaid benefits available for the prevention, detection, and response to the Zika virus. This included the option for states to cover approved mosquito repellants as a Medicaid benefit when prescribed by an authorized health professional.

HHSC is currently conducting a fiscal impact of adding the benefit. In an effort to be as prepared as possible for any direction received to proceed with implementing this benefit, a VDP MCO notice went out on Monday June 27<sup>th</sup> describing the potential business requirements and system changes needing to be in place in order to provide the benefit to Medicaid members. At this time Medicaid and CHIP MCOs are not required to provide insect repellant to members as a covered benefit. HHSC will be in close communication with the Medicaid and CHIP MCOs to provide any direction related to the provision of this potential new benefit.